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### AMENDMENTS TO THE SPECIFICATION

#### In the Title:

Please replace the Title with the following Title: Anti-HTV aptamers.

#### In the Specification:

please amend paragraph 013 as follows:

[0013] The nucleic acid can be either RNA or DNA, single or double stranded. Typically the nucleic acid molecules are 20-120 nucleotides in length. The nucleotides that form the nucleic acid can be chemically modified to increase the stability of the molecule, to improve its bioavailability or to confer additional activity on it. For example the ~~pyrimidine~~ purine bases may be modified at the 2, 6 or 8 positions, and pyrimidine ~~purine~~ bases at the 5 or 6 position with CH<sub>3</sub> or halogens such as I, Br or Cl. Modifications of pyrimidines bases also include position 2 modification with NH<sub>3</sub>, O<sub>6</sub>--CH<sub>3</sub>, N<sub>6</sub>--CH<sub>3</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>--CH<sub>3</sub>. Modifications at the 2' position are sugar modifications and include typically a NH<sub>2</sub>, F or O CH<sub>3</sub> group. Modifications can also include 3' and 5' modifications such as capping.

#### Unmarked version of paragraph 0039:

[0013] The nucleic acid can be either RNA or DNA, single or double stranded. Typically the nucleic acid molecules are 20-120 nucleotides in length. The nucleotides that form the nucleic acid can be chemically modified to increase the stability of the molecule, to improve its bioavailability or to confer additional activity on it. For example the purine bases may be modified at the 2, 6 or 8 positions, and pyrimidine bases at the 5 or 6 position with CH<sub>3</sub> or halogens such as I, Br or Cl. Modifications of pyrimidines bases also include position 2 modification with NH<sub>3</sub>, O<sub>6</sub>--CH<sub>3</sub>, N<sub>6</sub>--CH<sub>3</sub> and N<sub>2</sub>--CH<sub>3</sub>. Modifications at the 2' position are sugar modifications and include typically a NH<sub>2</sub>, F or O CH<sub>3</sub> group. Modifications can also include 3' and 5' modifications such as capping.